

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 *a1* 1. (amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device with at least one acousto-
2 electric converter or at least one electro-acoustic converter having an acoustic input or
3 output connected via an acoustic conductor to a coupling port on an outer surface of
4 the custom-moulded ear-plug shell, characterized in that the said acoustic conductor is
5 in the form of a channel extending through, and bounded by, material of the custom-
6 moulded ear-plug shell.

1 2.(amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in claim 1, characterized in
2 that, over its length, the channel features varying cross-sectional dimensions or
3 shapes.

1 *a2* 4.(amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in one of the claims 1 to 2,
2 characterized in that, over at least a substantial segment of its length, the channel
3 extends essentially parallel to the outer surface of the custom-moulded ear-plug
4 device.

1 5. (amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in one of the claims 1 to 2,
2 characterized in that the custom-moulded ear-plug device is a hearing aid.

1 6. (amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in one of the claims 1 to 2,
2 *as* characterized in that the custom-moulded ear-plug device is an in-ear hearing aid and
3 that the channel is part of a venting system for the ear drum.

1 7. (amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in one of the claims 1 to 2,
2 characterized in that at least certain segments of at least two of the signal-carrying
3 channels extends in parallel fashion.
